Ex-Official of Klan Offers Aid to Ray

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SAVANNAH, Ga., March 21 (AP) — The office of J. B. Stoner said today that Stoner, an attorney with past connections with the Ku Klux Klan and the National States Rights Party, will represent James Earl Ray in his fight for a new trial in the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

A spokesman, Edward S. Fields, said Stoner is en route by automobile to Nashville where he plans to confer with Ray Saturday morning.

Ray was imprisoned in Nashville after pleading guilty in Memphis to King's slaying and receiving a 99-year sentence. Fields said Stoner was hired to help Ray change his plea to innocent and to defend him if he wins a new trial. Fields said that Ray originally had contacted Stoner shortly after Ray's arrest in London and that there had been correspondence between the two since. Fields said that Stoner had visited Ray in Memphis.

Stoner, who was a vice presidential candidate for the National States Rights Party, has in the past styled himself as "imperial wizard of the Christian Knights of the Klan."

He once published a Klan paper in Louisville, Ky., and Atlanta and authored a book entitled "the Gospel of Jesus Christ Versus the Jews."